



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHIANG ANNOUNCES FREE E-FILE SERVICE FOR
SALES AND USE TAX**

State Board of Equalization (BOE) Chair John Chiang today announced the BOE will soon launch its free electronic filing or "BOE-File" service for eligible taxpayers' sales and use tax returns.

"This innovation is part of our continued effort to offer taxpayers free electronic services," said Chair John Chiang.

BOE-File offers businesses a fast and convenient method to easily file sales and use tax returns. The service will be available at no cost to them starting September 26, 2005, on the BOE website at www.boe.ca.gov.

The BOE has offered electronic filing of sales and use tax returns since 2001 through a partnership with third party service providers for fees ranging from \$4.95 to \$9.95. Nearly 2,000 returns were filed the first year, and the number of electronic filers has increased annually. Over 16,600 returns were e-filed in the last fiscal year.

Single-outlet retail taxpayer accounts, including temporary accounts, are eligible to E-File forms BOE-401-EZ and BOE-401-A with Schedule A and T only. Taxpayers who are required to remit payment via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) are not currently eligible.

The BOE plans to provide additional electronic services in the future. More information on the free service is available by clicking "E-file" on the BOE website at www.boe.ca.gov.

Chairman John Chiang, of Los Angeles, was elected to his first term as Fourth District Member on the State Board of Equalization in 1998, and re-elected in 2002. He was named Chair of the Board in December 2004. He also presided as Chair in 2002.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects more than \$44 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

Other Board Members include Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; and State Controller Steve Westly.

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